



# Northern Great Plains Network

## Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

April 2004



**Field Inventories:** The investigators will soon be out in the field. In the last newsletter I listed the investigators, the parks, and the activities, so I won't repeat them here (go to: <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/Pages/organization.htm> for old newsletters). In addition to the previously described studies, we recently developed an agreement with Dr. Jim Stubbendieck and Kay Kottas of the U. of Nebraska-Lincoln to conduct a plant inventory at the Missouri NRR. And Dr. Phil Sudman of Tarleton State U. will conduct the mammal inventory at the park under the Forest Service agreement with Cheryl Schmidt (he's a U. of South Dakota grad who is familiar with the park). Last, I put the wildlife cameras out at Fort Union Trading Post and Knife River Indian Villages NHS'.

**NGPN Vital Signs Funding:** Well I hate to be the bearer of bad news, but things are gloomy in terms of FY05 funding for the Northern Great Plains Network. You may have noticed that the recently published NPS *Natural Resources Year in Review* listed the networks scheduled for FY05 funding; we were not on that list, instead, the NGPN was listed as an "unfunded" network. At best, we may be looking at FY06 for full funding.

**Aquatic Monitoring:** A reminder that Dr. Nels Troelstrup and his staff will be visiting parks soon to conduct bioassessments of aquatic resources. He is still waiting to receive research permits from many parks so please process as soon as possible.

**Summer Hires:** The I&M Program has hired 2 assistants for the summer. As mentioned in the last newsletter, Amber Enriken is a GS-404-5 STEP hire from South Dakota State U who will EOD May 17. Amber will assist in all facets of the program. In addition, we have selected Mike Bynum of Chadron State U. as the other summer assistant (GS-404-5), to EOD June 14. Mike will primarily assist Amy Symstad on a vegetation study at Mount Rushmore NMEM; the project should be funded through the park (still waiting on word of this). The remainder of his time will be spent assisting the I&M Program.

**Plotter:** The I&M Program recently acquired a HP 42" plotter. However, we opted not to purchase one with scanning capability (as discussed in the last Technical Committee conference call). We made this decision because we recently became aware that the MWRO has such a scanner (in the Lands division) and because it saves us almost \$10k (cost for the unit we purchased was about \$11k). If parks need to print out large maps, banners, posters, or other documents please contact Joel Brumm.

**Web Page:** Erin Handberg is getting more content up on the web page. You can now find our agreements, the investigator reports, monthly newsletters, meeting minutes, and much more at <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/index.htm>.

**NGPN Article:** The Northern Great Plains Network was the cover story in the recent issue of the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory newsletter. You can find the article at: <http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/Pages/publicationsArchive.htm>.